

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC		X		
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OCA				
14	D/PAO		X		
15	D/PERS				
16	D/Ex Staff				
17	DCI Counsel		X		
18	ER				
19					
20					
21					
22					

SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks

Dissemination per O/DDCI.

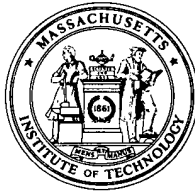
Executive Secretary

21 Aug '87

Date

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Executive Registry

87-4118X

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
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August 10, 1987

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Mr. Robert Gates
Deputy Director, Central Intelligence
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Bob:

As you know, in September 1986 the CIA published an unclassified version of: The Soviet Weapons Industry: An Overview. This paper was published at the urging of the MEAP, following a noticeable decline in the agency's open publications in the area of Soviet defense economic performance.

I am writing because I want to emphasize to you the important contributions that this paper has made to the public discussion of Soviet defense and national security policy. I cannot tell you the large number of people who have commented favorably on this paper over the last 6 months. As I have traveled around the country, time and again academics and industry researchers have pointed to this paper as a product of invaluable utility to their work. To those like myself, who have been most concerned with the process of policy and technology innovation in the Soviet weapons industry, the paper allows us to talk about things publicly that were not possible prior to publication. Others, more interested in the output of Soviet weapons production, have been able to use the information and details provided in the paper to clarify the public debate on what the Soviet Union was indeed producing and the corresponding implications. I think it is important to note that supporters and critics of the CIA alike have praised this paper as an important contribution to the literature.

I raise this only because I know there continues to be mixed views on the value of the CIA attempting to put information out into public when at the same time it cannot defend itself from careless criticism. I believe, however, that the CIA's role and responsibility in public discussions of Soviet defense and economic activities must be far greater than the agency has been willing to assume in recent years. The Soviet weapons industry paper is one example of the immeasurable contribution the agency

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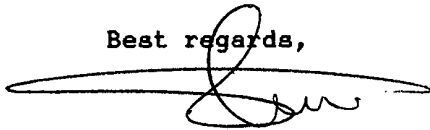
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can make. There will always be both responsible and irresponsible critics of CIA work done at unclassified and classified levels. The agency should not be gun shy, and the Soviet weapons industry paper demonstrates the importance of an active CIA role in the dispersing of unclassified information

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I hope that this very positive and productive experience with the Soviet Weapons Industry paper will stimulate other CIA efforts to add to the unclassified literature.

Best regards,



Stephen M. Meyer

cc: Doug MacEachin

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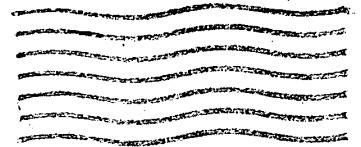
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